

**The inclusion of U.S. and overseas Armed Forces in official state totals helps determine the number of seats each state will have in the House of Representatives.**

# Sound Off for the Census

## A Guide for People in the Armed Forces

### Where Will You and Your Family Be Counted?

The majority of people in the United States will be counted at their usual residence, the place where they live and sleep most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as the person's voting residence, legal residence or permanent residence. Determining their usual residence is easy for most people — but it may not be so apparent for people in the military and their families. Here are the rules:

- People in the armed forces residing in the United States are counted at their usual residence, the place where they live and sleep most of the time, whether it is on-base or off-base.
- People in the armed forces assigned to installations outside the United States, including family members with them, are counted as part of the U.S. overseas population.
- Crews of armed forces vessels with a U.S. homeport are counted at their usual onshore residence, where they live and sleep most of the time, or otherwise at their vessel's homeport if they do not report an onshore residence.
- Crews of armed forces vessels with a homeport outside the U.S. are counted as part of the U.S. overseas population.

### An Overview of the Census for the Armed Forces.

The base appoints a project officer to work with the local census office. The local census office trains base personnel, provides materials, and assists with any questions or problems during the census.

Armed forces personnel fill out a special form called a Military Census Report (MCR). They can claim their home address or report the address of their barracks, hospital ward, disciplinary barracks or unaccompanied personnel housing. If someone is on temporary duty at another location, the permanent duty station will compile an MCR from his or her records. Personnel on board Navy and Coast Guard vessels will receive Shipboard Census Reports (SCR) to complete. They can claim their home address if they have an onshore address. If not, they will be counted on board the ship at its homeport.

People living in family housing, in the United States, either on or off base, also will receive a questionnaire. Family housing on base is enumerated through the same procedures the census will use for housing in the surrounding area. It is important for people living in family housing to fill out both the census questionnaire and the MCR or SCR.

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## **People who answer the census help their communities receive state and federal funding.**

For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov> or call one of our Regional Census Centers across the country:

Atlanta 404-331-0573  
Boston 617-424-4977  
Charlotte 704-344-6624  
Chicago 312-353-9759  
Dallas 214-655-3060  
Denver 303-231-5029  
Detroit 248-967-9524  
Kansas City 816-801-2020  
Los Angeles 818-904-6522  
New York City 212-620-7702  
or 212-620-7703  
Philadelphia 215-597-8312  
Seattle 206-553-5882

## **Answering the Questionnaire That Comes to Your Family Residence Will Be Easy.**

- Census 2000 questionnaires will be easy-to-read and simple to fill out.
- Questionnaire Assistance Centers will help people fill out their questionnaires.
- A toll-free telephone help line to reach a multilingual staff will be listed on the census questionnaire.

## **Your Family Members Are Urged to Apply for Census Jobs.**

Hiring from the community is an important part of Census 2000's strategy for success. Census workers receive up to three days of structured, paid training in organizing work, reading maps, filling out forms, interviewing and dealing with difficult or unusual interviewing situations. They will work in their own communities with daily hands-on coaching from a supervisor. In addition to performing work important to the community, successful employees will receive a letter from the Census Bureau documenting their acquired skills. The Census Bureau is actively seeking bilingual recruits to staff facilities and conduct the census. Call **toll-free 1-888-325-7733** for more information about Census 2000 jobs.

## **Answering the Census Is Important, Easy and Safe.**

The U.S. Constitution directs the Census Bureau to conduct a complete accounting of every resident in the United States every 10 years. Participating in the census is in everyone's best interest. The inclusion of U.S. and overseas armed forces in official state totals helps determine the number of seats each state will have in the House of Representatives. People who answer the census help their communities obtain state and federal funding, as well as providing valuable information for building hospitals and highways and providing housing assistance and more. Census information helps decision-makers understand which neighborhoods need new schools and which ones need greater services for the elderly. The best way to make sure people like yourself are represented in the census is to simply fill out the form and encourage others to do so.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share the individual answers it receives with others, including welfare agencies, Immigration, IRS, courts, police or the military. The military personnel who help with the census on base are sworn to protect the confidentiality of your answers. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to 5 years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works — millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust.